

Rafsanjani berates West in letter to Major

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's president, Hashemi Rafsanjani, has sent a seven-page letter to British Prime Minister John Major in which he berated the West's "double standards," the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Saturday. The agency said Mr. Rafsanjani criticised Britain for what he said were attempts to "politicise" the issue of Iran's death threat on Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses." Mr. Rafsanjani repeated in his message that the four-year-old-edict, issued by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on the author for allegedly insulting Islam in his novel, was in force and "there was no way in which it could be lifted," IRNA said. Mr. Rafsanjani added that "Iran's policy opposes employing any kind of force in international relations, categorically denounces terrorism in all aspects, does not intervene in internal affairs and respects both international law and domestic regulations," IRNA reported. It said copies of the letter were sent to the leaders of the 11 other European Community (EC) countries. Mr. Rafsanjani accused the West of spreading "false propaganda" about Iran.

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Cabinet approves draft labour law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet approved in a meeting held Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker a new draft labour law. According to Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabaniti, the endorsement of the law followed intensive meetings by the Council of Ministers which showed special interest in drafting "this advanced law" in the shortest possible time. He said the draft law would be sent to the Lower House of Parliament this week.

Global warming may threaten 900 million

BONN (R) — Global warming may kill up to 900 million people through starvation over the next 40 years according to a respected German science institute, a magazine said Saturday. The Fraunhofer Institute in Munich said its estimate was based on climate researchers' predictions that the amount of carbon dioxide gas in the atmosphere will double by 2030. Carbon dioxide, produced by burning fossil fuels, traps heat from the sun in the earth's atmosphere. The institute estimated that destruction of arable land and infrastructure, natural disasters and starvation resulting from global warming by 2030 would cost \$900 trillion worldwide. The institute's findings were released by Focus news magazine.

Kofi visits Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Algerian leader Ali Kafi arrived in neighbouring Tunisia Saturday for a two-day visit to re-launch bilateral cooperation and advance the Arab Maghreb Union. The trip is Mr. Kafi's second abroad since he took over as head of Algeria's five-man presidency following the assassination last June of Head of State Mohammad Boudiaf.

Guinean gets top U.N. job for Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — Guinea's permanent representative to the United Nations, Lansana Kouyate, has been appointed deputy special envoy to Somalia. Reporting directly to Secretary General Boutros Ghali, Mr. Kouyate will take over in acting capacity the duties of special U.N. Representative for Somalia Ismat Kittani, whose three-month assignment ends this month. U.N. spokesman Farouk Mawlawi told reporters.

Libyan envoy visits Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — The Libyan and Syrian foreign ministers, Omar Mustafa Al Montasser and Farouk Al Sharra, discussed the Lockerbie dispute in Damascus Saturday, officials said. The officials said Mr. Montasser and Mr. Sharra specifically discussed the work of an Arab ministerial committee set up to find a solution to Libya's dispute with the West. Mr. Montasser later met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad with Mr. Sharra present, they added.

Yemeni minister arrives in S. Arabia

SANAA (R) — Yemen's oil and mineral resources minister arrived in Saudi Arabia Saturday on a visit underlining the recent improvement in strained relations over Yemen's support of Iraq in the Gulf war. The minister, Saleh Abu Bakr Ben Hussain, told reporters in Sanaa before leaving for Riyadh that he was carrying a message from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to Saudi King Fahd.

SLA shells villages

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli-affiliated militiamen on Saturday shelled and sniped at villages north of their enclave in South Lebanon. Police said a young girl was wounded. Police said the intermittent barrage started shortly after daybreak (0400 GMT). It followed overnight sniping by militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon army. He said Zainab Hammoud, 11, was wounded in her left leg by a sniper fire near the village of Arab Saleem, north of Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone." He said the SLA move apparently was a precautionary measure by the Israeli-affiliated militia to stop guerrilla activity.

King: Failure to achieve peace in Mideast will be devastating

His Majesty warns against any substantial delay in peace talks, voices hope conditions will be better soon

Christopher pays tribute to Jordan's role and record in peace process and the Kingdom's democratisation drive

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday warned against any substantial delay in the resumption of Arab-Israeli peace talks, saying that the price of failure to achieve Middle East peace "will be devastating."

While stressing that the problem of about 400 Palestinians Israel expelled to South Lebanon in mid-December constitutes an obstacle to progress in the stalled Arab-Israeli negotiations, the King expressed hope that conditions would soon be right for the resumption of the negotiations.

Arab parties to the talks

boycotted the negotiations Dec. 17 to protest the Israeli expulsion of the Palestinians.

"There are obstacles in the path of progress at this stage and there is great anger and anxiety over the question of the deportees and indeed over the growing number of casualties in the occupied territories in the recent past," the King said during a joint press conference with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

King Hussein, however, said that efforts are being made to address the problem, stressing the need for a quick return to the negotiation table.

"I believe very very strongly

that there not be too much of a let down in the peace talks and let time lapse to the point where we have to make a fresh start," King Hussein said.

The King did not say directly whether Jordan would resume its peace talks with Israel before the evictees problem is solved but said efforts "are being made right now to deal with it and to remove the obstacle from the path of all concerned in the region so that we move as quickly as we can and seize the moment."

The King said he was encouraged to see the new American administration assume its responsibilities in the region as Mr. Christopher reiterated the U.S.

preparedness to become a full partner in the talks.

King Hussein said Jordan remains committed to the cause of just, durable and comprehensive peace on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and Mr. Christopher said the U.S. was looking forward to work with Jordan towards that end.

"No country has made more progress or indeed as much progress as Jordan in the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. We look forward with great expectations to working closely with His Majesty to seek a comprehensive, just and lasting peace based on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338," Mr. Christopher said.

Mr. Christopher said the U.S. intends to play an active role in the region and reactivate the peace talks. But he reported no new U.S. measures to pressure Israel into returning all the evictees to the occupied territories, a demand upon which the Palestinians have conditioned their decision to resume the negotiations.

A senior U.S. official was Friday quoted as saying the U.S. would work to get Israel speed up the judicial review of individual cases of the expellees and Israeli officials Saturday declined comment on the U.S. suggestion.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said the U.S. has

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the Royal Palace Saturday (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Israeli soldiers kill Palestinian in Tulkarem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian in the occupied West Bank Friday night, military officials said.

They said an army unit opened fire when it encountered two masked Palestinians during an operation in the Tulkarem refugee camp. One of them was heavily wounded and the other escaped.

The wounded man, who died as he was being treated by an army doctor, was allegedly carrying two loaded pistols, according to the officials.

Israel meanwhile played down a decision by the United Nations human rights commission to appoint for the first time a special investigator to monitor alleged Israeli abuses in the occupied territories.

Israeli forces have killed 48 Palestinians in the occupied territories since the mass expulsion.

Israeli officials declined to comment Saturday on a U.S. suggestion that Israel speed up judicial reviews for the Palestinians expelled to Lebanon.

U.S. officials travelling in the

United States, the commission — the U.N.'s main human rights forum — passed four resolutions on Friday condemning Israel for violating the rights of Palestinians living under Israeli rule.

One of the resolutions asked the commission to appoint a "special rapporteur" to investigate violations of international law and the Geneva conventions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

U.N. officials said a stronger Third World contingent on the 53-member commission and anger at Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians to Lebanon on Dec. 17 allowed member states to push through stronger resolutions this year.

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(Continued on page 5)

Exiles reject U.S.-mooted appeal-process compromise

MARJ AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) — The spokesman for nearly 400 Palestinians expelled by Israel to Lebanon Saturday rejected American efforts to accelerate their phased return home.

Senior U.S. officials travelling with Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the Middle East said the Clinton administration has called for Israel to use its appellate court process to speed the repatriation of the expelled Palestinians.

They said the humanitarian gesture would not undermine an agreement that Mr. Christopher reached Feb. 1 with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to repatriate 101 evictees.

The evictees spokesman, Abdul Aziz Rantisi, told reporters: "The goodwill gesture aims at recognising the (expulsion) order and is an effort to circumvent U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for our immediate return home. He will foil any attempt to circumvent Resolution 799."

Dr. Rantisi, talking to reporters at the expellees' tent camp between Israeli and Lebanese army lines in southeast Lebanon, said the expelled men would "not accept any attempt aimed at a phased return home."

The new U.S. approach to the crisis is aimed at opening the way towards resuming Arab-Israeli peace talks stalled since Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon on Dec. 17.

Dr. Rantisi said Mr. Christopher must not commit himself to

such proposals during his current Middle East tour.

The secretary of state, he said, should "study and understand the position of the deportees (exiles) and its rigidity before he involves himself in a situation that will bring him failure."

Last month, Mr. Christopher hammered out a timetable with Mr. Rabin under which 101 evictees could return immediately and the rest by the end of this year at the latest.

Now, U.S. officials are saying Israel should put into effect a judicial review procedure of all expulsion cases which had been part of Mr. Rabin's compromise package from the beginning.

Asked if he believed Arab negotiators would return to the peace talks before the deportees issue was resolved, he said: "The Arab states will not accept to sit with he who (expels) Palestinians, kills their children and destroys their homes."

Dr. Rantisi on Friday demanded no expulsion pledge from Israel, vowing that the expellees would adopt a new stand regarding efforts to repatriate them if such a commitment was announced by the Jewish state. He refused to disclose further details.

Meanwhile, the evictees remained confined to their 50 tents to shelter from rain. Most of them were chanting a new song that they composed recently.

"O Security Council, where are

your efforts to implement your

Resolution (799)?" the song says.

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Shopkeeper attacked in Tabarbur

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A 50-year-old shopkeeper in the Tabarbur suburb of Amman was seriously wounded in an attack Saturday morning in the latest of a series of incidents posing a serious challenge to the security authorities.

A brief statement issued by the Public Security Directorate (PSD) said the target of the latest attack was a bookshop in Tabarbur, and the victim, identified by his initials as M.M., suffered severe head injuries inflicted by a "heavy tool."

The victim, who was admitted to Al Bashir Hospital, suffered at least seven injuries and is undergoing treatment, the statement said.

It said that preliminary investigations indicated that the attack occurred around 7 a.m., but that nothing was stolen from the store. It did not give any details.

No official was immediately available for further comment.

It was the ninth in a series of attacks and petty robberies which began in mid-September; two of the victims died and others suffered injuries to the skull with a heavy instrument, most probably a hammer, according to police sources.

In all cases, cash carried in person by the victim was missing, but strangely cash registers were left untouched.

Despite the common features in the attacks which have produced the media nickname "Abu Shakoush" (hammerman) for the assailant(s), sources say police believe that more than one person or group could be involved in the incidents.

In a statement issued last week, PSD Director-General Fadel Ali Fuhaid sought to reassure the public that police had intensified their investigations into the cases and expressed confidence that the culprit(s) would be nabbed soon.

Police said none of the approximately 42 people still abroad the plane was injured. They said the hijacker placed his hand grenades on the stairs to the plane and gave himself up at Stockholm airport, after about 5½ hours of negotiations.

He was taken away in a police bus.

The hijacker, accompanied by his wife and baby boy, commanded the twin-engine Tupolev 134 plane from Siberia to St. Petersburg.

His wife was stunned by his actions and sat in the back of the aircraft during the ordeal. No one was reported injured.

If that is the case, then the problem would be of a large magnitude," said one expert. "It would be relatively not very difficult to solve the cases if one person or group was behind all of them. But if several persons or groups are working independently of each other, then it would be a tough nut to crack."

Another cause of worry for

Christopher flies into Syria saying no new proposal to resolve crisis

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived Saturday on the third leg of his mission to rescue the stalled Arab-Israeli peace talks and said he hopes all parties would "sustain their strong commitment to meaningful negotiations."

"We do not have any specific proposals to advance beyond what is already on the table."

Palestinians refuse to return to the peace talks unless 596 Palestinians deported by Israel in December are allowed to return home.

Mr. Christopher said he hoped all the parties to the talks would "be able to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region and to remove the obstacles."

Despite the Arab parties' chagrin at the slow pace of the negotiations, none is eager to break off the talks at this stage.

But with Israel intensifying its "security" operations in the occupied territories, continuing construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and defying the United Nations, they see the current crisis as a test of the fledgling Clinton administration's resolve.

Syria's Al Thawra daily said in an editorial Saturday: "It is meaningless to resume bilateral talks while peace in the region is blocked by Israeli intransigence."

It was one of the most strongly-worded Syrian statements on the crisis since it began Dec. 17.

Al Thawra said that if Mr. Christopher wants to "push the

process forward, he must

(Continued on page 5)

started. He also praised its participation in the multinational force which ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait in 1991.

Mr. Sharra said he hoped all the parties to the talks would "be able to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region and to remove the obstacles."

Mr. Sharra said he hoped the secretary of state's discussions would help implement the U.N. resolution calling for the return of the others to one year.

The secretary flew in from Amman (see separate story). He was scheduled to meet President Hafez Al Assad Sunday before flying to the Gulf.

"We hope the discussions would prove to be positive and constructive," Mr. Sharra said.

"The deportees issue is an obstacle so far. We hope all deportees would be able to go back home and the parties concerned be able to resume the bilateral talks as soon as possible."

Mr. Christopher reaffirmed Washington's commitment to the peace process.

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Clinton: U.S. will continue to enforce sanctions on Iraq

WASHINGTON (USA) — The United States will sustain its policy of economic sanctions against Iraq because of Iraq's failure to comply fully with United Nations Security Council resolutions, including those calling for the elimination of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, President Bill Clinton has said in a report to Congress.

"The regime of Saddam Hussein continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to regional peace and security, (and) to the national security and the foreign policy of the United States," the president said in the report, which covered developments in Iraq from Aug. 2, 1992, to Feb. 1, 1993.

"The United States will therefore continue to apply economic sanctions to deter Iraq from threatening peace and stability in the region," Mr. Clinton said.

The United States began its sanctions regime against Iraq on Aug. 9, 1990, with an executive order by President George Bush which froze Iraqi assets in the United States and prohibited the movement of commerce between the two countries. The action aligned the sanctions imposed by the United States with United Nations Security Council Resolution 661 of Aug. 6, 1990.

"Investigation of possible violations of the Iraqi sanctions continue to be pursued and appropriate enforcement actions



Bill Clinton
taken," Mr. Clinton reported.

Since the last report, he said, one case (Consarc Corporation v. the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Minerals) filed against the government of Iraq has gone to judgment and into a subsequent appeal.

"The United States imposed economic sanctions on Iraq in response to Iraq's invasion and illegal occupation of Kuwait, a clear act of brutal aggression," Mr. Clinton said in the report.

"The United States, together with the international community, is maintaining economic sanctions against Iraq because the Iraqi regime has failed to comply fully with United Nations resolutions including:

— Those calling for the elimination of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction;

— The inviolability of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti boundary;

— The release of Kuwaiti and other third country nationals;

— Compensation for victims of Iraqi aggression;

— Long-term monitoring of weapons of mass destruction capabilities; and

— The return of Kuwaiti assets taken during its occupation of Kuwait.

The Saddam Hussein regime also continued to violate basic human rights by repressing the Iraqi civilian population and depriving it of humanitarian assistance, the president said.

"The United Nations Security Council passed resolutions that permit Iraq to sell \$1.6 billion of oil under U.N. auspices to fund the provision of food, medicine, and other humanitarian supplies for the people of Iraq. ... The Iraqi regime continued to refuse to accept these resolutions and has thereby chosen to perpetuate the suffering of its civilian population," the report said.

"Because of Iraq's failure to comply fully with United Nations Security Council resolutions, the United States will therefore continue to apply economic sanctions to deter Iraq from threatening peace and stability in the region. ... The U.N. sanctions remain in place; the United States will continue to enforce those sanctions."



An elderly Palestinian passes an Israeli soldier as he leaves a mosque after Friday prayers in occupied Jerusalem (AP photo)

Europarlamentarians urged to force Israel to obey world law

THE COUNCIL for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU) has written to all the British members of the European Parliament (MEP) urging them to warn Israel that its violations of international law will not be tolerated indefinitely, and calling for the European Community (EC) to impose trade sanctions to encourage the Israelis to pursue the Middle East peace talks with greater vigour.

After six months in office, said the letter, the government of Yitzhak Rabin had "failed to take the necessary confidence-building measures in the (occupied territories) to create the right atmosphere for peace negotiations and to rally popular Palestinian support behind the Palestine negotiators."

Mr. Rabin's policies had been "80 per cent stick and 20 per cent

carrot" and had included "the worst policies of suppression from his days as defence minister at the beginning of the intifada."

This, together with the stalemate in the peace talks, meant that "popular support for negotiations has been falling and people, especially the young, have turned towards Hamas." Mr. Rabin's decision to expel the 400 Palestinians to Lebanon in December had been "a sorry series of mistakes and lost opportunities" for which he had been responsible since coming to power.

The expulsions had sparked an upsurge of demonstrations in the occupied territories and Israeli security forces had sought to suppress these with their customary violence, CAABU Director Bernard Mills noted.

Accompanying his letter was a U.N.-collected list of casualties

amongst children aged up to 15 in the Gaza Strip in the period from December 1992 to Jan. 17, 1993. Nine children had been killed and 149 had been wounded. In the subsequent 10 days, said Mr. Mills, "at least another seven children have been killed and a further 90 wounded by live ammunition."

The CAABU director's letter, dated Jan. 28, continued: "The protracted suffering of the deportees in no-man's land in South Lebanon is terrible enough but the continued carnage inflicted on children by the Israelis in the occupied territories cannot be tolerated. Only rapid and decisive action by the Security Council to enforce compliance with Resolution 799 (requiring Israel to rescind the deportations) or sanctions imposed by the European Community, will bring this sorry episode to an end — CAABU believes."

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Amnesty reports human rights abuses in Sudan

LONDON (AP) — Authorities in Sudan continue to commit gross human rights violations, including mass killings of tribal enemies, Amnesty International said Friday.

The human rights organisation issued a report saying there were "especially disturbing reports" of mass killings in the remote Nuba mountains, where the government is engaged in military action against the Nuba people.

No-one was immediately available for comment at the Sudan embassy.

Amnesty International said there were reports that hundreds of civilians were extrajudicially executed in the Nuba mountains as recently as late December and early January.

The exact scale of these killings is not yet confirmed, but Amnesty International knows of scores of other extrajudicial executions in the Nuba mountains in the past year, and tens of thousands of Nuba have been deliberately displaced in assaults on their villages by government forces.

It added that in the remote war zones of southern and western Sudan, "where the government apparently feels free from international scrutiny, the authorities are flagrant in their disregard for human rights."

The report said hundreds of people were reportedly extrajudicially executed in Juba in mid-1992, "as government forces 'mopped up' after incursions by the armed opposition Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA)."

The authorities have not accounted for over 100 men arrested in Juba around the same time, it said. The men have since disappeared.

Amnesty International added that in the major cities of northern Sudan, which was more open to international scrutiny, "the government appears to be trying to make repression less visible rather than actually ending it."

"But there is a continuing pattern of detention without charge or trial of government critics."

Amnesty International said it had the names of 250 political detainees who have been held without charge in the capital, Khartoum, alone, it said.

On Jan. 28, it said, Mohammad Abdal Sid, the Khartoum correspondent of the international Arabic-language daily Al Ashar Al Awtal, was arrested and the newspaper's offices were closed.

Amnesty International added that the Sudan People's Liberation Army also was responsible for abuses.

In January 1992, forces loyal to the SPLA deliberately and arbitrarily killed 87 civilians at Pagan in Dahr Al Ghazal state. In September 1992, SPLA forces murdered three foreign aid workers and a journalist.

It said the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) was believed to have killed two of the 13 reporters.

The killers of four others had yet to be identified, but the report said the police were directly or indirectly implicated.

"We are convinced that there was at least the complicity, if not the participation, of the armed forces," it said.

In a right-of-reply statement issued with the report, the Turkish embassy in Switzerland said the RSF had set out to prove the complicity of security forces. It said the accusations of complicity were not based on substantial evidence but on biased testimonies.

Turkish police accused of murders

GENEVA (R) — An international watchdog group, Reporters Without Frontiers (RSF), said Friday it believed Turkish police were implicated in the murders of at least four Kurdish journalists last year.

In an inquiry into the killings of 13 journalists in Turkey in 1992, the Paris-based group also said there were "elements which could support certain suspicions" of official complicity in seven other cases.

The report, entitled "Intimidation," was released a day after a Kurdish reporter was killed in southeastern town of Sanliurfa, the second such killing this year. All but one of the journalists killed in the last 12 months were Kurds.

It said the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) was believed to have killed two of the 13 reporters.

The killers of four others had yet to be identified, but the report said the police were directly or indirectly implicated.

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Israel continues settlement building despite pledge

ISRAEL'S ILLEGAL colonisation of the occupied West Bank is continuing, despite a government pledge to halt construction in exchange for \$10 billion worth of U.S. loan guarantees, according to the Peace Now Movement.

The Peace Now settlement watch committee has found some new construction sites in several locations in the West Bank," said a statement from the organisation. "This is a blatant violation of the government's own commitment to block further development beyond 11,000 housing units."

When the government of Yitzhak Rabin came to power last July it froze the construction of 6,000 new units in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In exchange, Washington unblocked the loan guarantees which had been frozen pending an end to Israeli colonisation. At the same time, however, the Rabin government allowed the completion of 13,567

"Continuation of construction at this time is an obstacle to the peace talks in Washington and raises tension and violence in the territories," said the statement.

An Israeli housing ministry spokesman firmly denied the Peace Now claim. "It is simply not true," he said. "There is no widening, nothing over what the government has said."

The Council for the Advancement of Arab-British understanding.

Swedish court jails Russians who smuggled Iraqi refugees

STOCKHOLM (R) — A Swedish court jailed four Russian-speaking men Friday for endangering the lives of nearly 400 Iraqi refugees they smuggled into Sweden in a freighter from Latvia.

The district court in Gotland, the Baltic Sea island where the 391 seafarers stumbled ashore last month, handed out one-year jail terms to the captain and first mate, and jailed the two other crewmen for eight months each.

All four men, who had been living in Latvia and had no passports, were also barred from Sweden until 1998, court official Ingmar Johansson told Reuters.

The court convicted the Latvian freighter Priekule's crew on charges of putting other people's lives in danger and of breaking immigration laws by bringing asylum-seekers to Sweden by an unauthorised route.

It was the toughest sentence so far in a series of cases of asylum-seekers from the Middle East landing illegally on Sweden's eastern shores, leading to calls for both stiffer penalties and tighter rules on asylum.

Swedish authorities say there is evidence that a Russian mafia is behind the trafficking, following reports by some of the asylum-seekers that they paid \$2,500 for the one-way journey from Moscow to Scandinavia.

The Priekule sailed to the island of Gotland, half-way between mainland Sweden and the Baltic countries, from the Latvian capital of Riga on Jan. 20.

The 391 refugees on board, mostly Iraqi Kurds, were packed into two small, unsanitary freighter holds during the seven-day voyage across the stormy Baltic Sea.

Swedish officials on Gotland said each refugee had only about half a square metre of space on the boat, which carried no safety equipment and little food or medicine.

The defendants, who in line with Swedish court procedure were not identified, said when the trial opened last week and that about 50 Iraqis had threatened them at knifepoint not to turn back to Riga.

The charge of endangering human life is rarely used because of the difficulty of producing evidence. Until Friday, the stiffest sentence handed down to a crew member bringing in boat refugees had been four months' imprisonment.

"This is an unusual sentence," Gosta Svensson, head of Visby police's criminal section, told Reuters. "Refugee smugglers are going to be more careful now because of the stricter judge."

The Gotland court will rule separately on whether or not to return the resting freighter to the Captain and crew after they complete their sentences. In the past, boats have been returned.

Turkish tunnel-break jail ignored escape warnings

ANKARA (R) — Eighteen Kurdish and extreme-left militants tunneled their way out of a maximum security jail after prison authorities ignored repeated warnings of possible escape plots.

Embarrassed Turkish officials, under pressure to improve a creaking prison system, ordered a full-scale probe after the convicts fled nevesir jail through a 30-metre tunnel Tuesday.

Six of the escapees, including Dev-Sol Urban guerrilla group mastermind Musel Goleli, were killed in the escape.

"This is negligence," Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel fumed Thursday. "Suspects are captured, they are convicted and then they flee."

Justice Minister Seyfi Oktay blamed the chief warden and 14 other officials at the jail in central Turkey.

"The Nevesir prison officials have been persistently warned of a possible escape attempt," he said. But he was unable to explain why the warnings — the last a week before the jailbreak — went unheeded.

Mr. Demirel said: "Our paper

everything has been done but in reality, nothing."

"The prisons are an open wound. There is something wrong with the system," Interior Minister Ismet Saygili told reporters after learning that senior leaders of Dev-Sol (revolutionary left) and the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) were among those who fled.

Marxist Dev-Sol has been waging violence in Turkey since the 1970s. It has claimed responsibility for scores of killings and bombings since 1987 — when it regrouped after a jailbreak by several of its leaders.

A separatist fight waged by the PKK for Kurdish independence is Turkey's biggest security headache. More than 5,400 people have been killed since 1984.

Newspapers said Nevesir inmates barricaded themselves in after the escape and prevented a security search for a day.

"No-one in his right mind can call them prisons. They would be better called schools of terrorism," wrote columnist Gungor Mengi in the mass-circulation Sabah newspaper.

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Embarrassed Turkish officials, under pressure to improve a creaking prison system, ordered a full-scale probe after the convicts fled nevesir jail through a 30-metre tunnel Tuesday.

Six of the escapees, including Dev-Sol Urban guerrilla group mastermind Musel Goleli, were killed in the escape.

"This is negligence," Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel fumed Thursday. "Suspects are captured,

Freedom Party outlines aims

By Sawsan Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Freedom Party Saturday held its first press conference after receiving its mandate from the government to discuss its aims and ideology.

The FP was founded by 28 members in 1987 under the name the Jordanian Progressive Party.

When it applied for licensing, in 1992, it changed its name to the Freedom Party to avoid any confusion between it and the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party.

Freedom Party Secretary General Fawaz Al-Zoubi

informed his party's support for the Constitution and the National Charter. He described the party as "democratic; patriotic; progressive; politically, economically and organisationally by independent Jordanian party."

Mr. Al-Zoubi said the FP's political agenda focuses primarily on Jordanian politics, taking into consideration its relationship with the Arab countries and with the world as a whole. He added that the party recognises the special relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people and said this is reflected in their programme.

Mr. Al-Zoubi said the goals of the FP are to protect Jordan from any form of intervention and to ensure its political and social independence. The FP supports the

democratization process in Jordan and calls for strengthening the roots of democracy in the Jordanian society, he maintained.

Mr. Al-Zoubi stated that the FP aims to achieve social justice by seeking to develop the Jordanian economy to ensure prosperity and a high standard of living.

In addition, Mr. Al-Zoubi said, the FP hopes to narrow the gap between different classes in Jordan.

The FP believes that the political agenda should be given preference over the ideology of the party in order to attain national unity. The party has no specific ideology.

It believes in progress, change and improvement, Mr. Al-Zoubi said. He explained that the FP bases its ideas on scientific and humane ideas, some of which come from the Arab and Islamic culture and history.

Mr. Al-Zoubi said the party does not categorize parties as left, right or center because this is an obstacle in the face of unity which Jordan is in need of now more than any other time.

One main problem faced by the FP is the lack of funding, Mr. Al-Zoubi mentioned. He said the FP has suggested that the government provide the political parties with low interest loans in order for the parties to "stand on their feet."

Still, the government has not responded he said.

Art diagnoses man's ill state

By Stephanie Genklin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the eye of Halim Nehaya, an Iraqi artist, the last decade is marked by a gloomy and degenerate state of man. His works depict this picture with imagination, talent and a strong expression of dissatisfaction.

This collection of ceramic works, currently on display at the French Cultural Centre, offers a range of power and its effects on humanity.

"Mr. Nehaya primarily focuses on what he considers to be the contemporary human condition, his work is largely a diagnosis of the ill state of man."

Through his artistic talents, developed during five years of study at the Fine Arts Institute in Baghdad, Mr. Nehaya portrays a world where people have virtually become blind to reality. His collection is not only an expression of his contemplation of man's predicament; it is also an attempt to warn those willing to consider his message.

Deception is conveyed by images, which the viewer knows full well is impossible. A pair of ceramic fish, for example, dangle down from a string fastened to a metal stand as if flying through the air. Each fish bears a design of superstition symbols, a distinguishing feature of contemporary Iraqi artists.

The artist, however, explains that this piece is more than an attempt to make the viewer realize

that human beings are subsisting on illusions. Mr. Nehaya chose the fish in this work to convey hopes and dreams of the people suffering back home.

"Fish are precious in Iraq. Poor people cannot afford fish," Mr. Nehaya explained.

While Mr. Nehaya is critical of the inclinations of man, at times portrayed as animals, he maintains the complete opposite view of women. In his art, women are portrayed as honest and warm, uncorrupted by the power of man. Many of the ceramic works suggest that one day women might be left no choice but to abandon man for his ruthlessness.

If the artist is rebelling against the "oppression inflicted by man; he is at the same time celebrating the natural law of the animal kingdom."

His faith in natural law is exemplified in a metal and ceramic work entitled "Space Garden". In this piece, Mr. Nehaya creates an environment he believes to be ideal.

Also featured at the exhibition is a series of human figures adorned by multiple hearts. According to the artist, the message is prescriptive.

Although dominated by the harsh appraisal of man and corruption, the collection does include some signs of hope for the future.

The exhibition will be on display at the French Cultural Centre until Feb. 22, 1993.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess Basma meets with charity committee

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Saturday received at the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) the Jordanian Charity Committee which supports the fund's programmes. At the meeting, Princess Basma and committee members agreed to set up sub-committees to raise funds for various charity programmes.

Prince Faisal, Princess Alia to attend AYF conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein and Princess Alia Al Faisal Sunday will attend the second General Conference of the Arab Youth Forum (AYF) at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC). The conference will discuss the AYF's financial and administrative reports for 1992 and a proposal on attending several of the forum's bylaws.

Mrs. Christopher visits NHF

AMMAN (Petra) — Mary Christopher, wife of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Saturday visited Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) and was briefed on its development programmes and projects. Mrs. Christopher was received by NHF President Ihsan Miftah who noted the role of NHF in supplementing national development efforts in the Kingdom.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jamil, Hala Khalil, Sana Nour and Afaf Zurnik — at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles (10 a.m.- 6 p.m.)

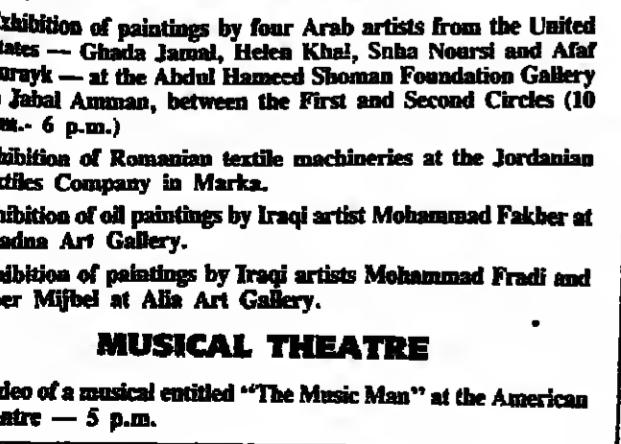
Exhibition of Romanian textile machineries at the Jordanian Textile Company in Marka.

Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artist Mohammad Fakher at Shadara Art Gallery.

Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Mohammad Fradi and Abu Majeed at Alia Art Gallery.

MUSICAL THEATRE

Video of a musical entitled "The Music Man" at the American Centre — 5 p.m.



Premier examines educational systems with Iraqi minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday said he was eager to see Iraqi-Jordanian cooperation in education bolstered at every level.

Speaking at a meeting in his office with a visiting Iraqi delegation led by Iraqi Minister of Education Hikmat Bazzaz, the Prime Minister said enhanced cooperation in the educational process would benefit both countries.

Mr. Bazzaz expressed his admiration for the Jordanian educational system and its plans for development and modernisation.

Together with his Jordanian counterpart, Mr. Thoutqan Al Hindawi, the Iraqi minister briefed Sharif Zeid on the outcome of their talks over the past few days.

He also said his ministry was determined to eradicate illiteracy in Iraq by making education compulsory and by expanding vocational training centres.

Mr. Bazzaz later met with Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra to review cultural relations.

neh said Saturday in an arrival statement in Amman.

The agreement provides for coordinating joint campaigns against pests, encouraging participating countries to exchange expertise and information in crop protection and will supervise the application of health related measures, the minister added.

Signatories to the agreement are Jordan, Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Yemen.

Convicted murderer hangs

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 29-year-old, convicted of murder in February 1992 was hanged at dawn Saturday.

Mohammad Ibrahim Mohammad was sentenced to death after being found guilty by the criminal court of murdering a 90-year-old woman who lived alone in Amman.

In announcing the execution, an official of the Public Security Department (PSD) said Mr. Mohammad used to frequent the

victim's home run errands for her, drink tea with her, and keep her company.

According to the PSD, on the day of the murder Mr. Mohammad arrived at the victim's home at 7:00 p.m. The woman offered him a cup of tea, and later the man tried to rape her, the PSD official said.

Mr. Mohammad used a large wooden pole placed near the fireplace to beat the woman on the head, instantly killing her.

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Jordan Times

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Visit that may work

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's talks yesterday with visiting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher focused not only on the need to reenergise the Arab-Israeli peace talks but also on ways and means to put the traditionally strong U.S.-Jordanian relations back on track. This much was clear from their joint press conference held at the conclusion of Mr. Christopher's visit to the country on Friday and Saturday.

While highlighting the issues of peace in the region took no-one by surprise, recognising and applauding Jordan's accelerated democratic process added a new dimension to the joint agenda of the two countries. In underlining parliamentary democracy in the Kingdom as a theme for his talks with the Jordanian leadership, Mr. Christopher was most probably sending a clear signal to the other states in the region which are yet to recognise the accomplishment by either word or deed.

The fact that the new U.S. administration has acknowledged Jordan's pioneering role does not mean that we should ask it for reward or compensation, as the King clearly stated yesterday. But it would seem proper for world democracies to lend support to the Jordanian initiative and hope that will happen in due course.

On the subject of peace in the Middle East, there was obviously a meeting of the minds between the two sides on the need for holding the next round of peace negotiations before long. The alternative to maintaining the momentum of the bilateral and multilateral peace talks, as His Majesty cautioned, could be very ominous in the sense that the entire Middle East region could plunge into a fresh cycle of extremism and violence. We cannot agree more with this assessment and thus have to call on Washington to show a more profound understanding of the looming dangers that would result from deadlock.

The fact there was also a convergence of views on the necessity of finding a workable solution to the dispute over the fate of the Palestinian expellees, now in their 65th day in exile, is comforting, even reassuring. Both sides acknowledged that this issue poses a major obstacle that requires early rectification. This call for speedy resolution of the expellee crisis comes amidst reports that Mr. Christopher is setting the stage for calling on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to accelerate their repatriation by invoking the judicial review mechanism in a more judicious manner.

But this is far from being enough to put the Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations back on track. For starters, the role of the PLO in the next rounds of talks requires fresh and bold redress. The hypocrisy that still smothers this aspect of the peace equation is unacceptable. True, the Israeli government has inched closer to accepting the PLO as a full-fledged peace partner when the Knesset repealed the 1986 law that forbade contacts with the Palestinian organisation. But the Americans can take us towards progress by effectively ending their unjustified boycott of the PLO and involving the legitimate Palestinian leadership in all efforts to reach a comprehensive settlement.

In any case, the outcome of the U.S. Secretary of State's visit to Jordan and elsewhere in the region cannot be properly gauged till he concludes his visits to the other countries. Most probably Mr. Christopher will not go back to Washington empty-handed if only he succeeds to persuade the Israelis that the repatriation problem has to be solved to the satisfaction of the Palestinians themselves.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WARREN CHRISTOPHER'S visit to Jordan offers the U.S. secretary a real chance to learn about Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict and the demands that should be met by Israel for peace to be established in the region, said Al Ra'i daily Saturday. Jordan is stressing to the new United States administration that it is peace oriented and desires stability in the region so that all countries can live in security. It goes without saying that Israel's military superiority can only achieve a temporary truce, but does not hold the requirements of real peace, and that the Israeli rejectionist stand can only breed violence and invite more hostilities in the Middle East region, said the daily. The paper said Jordan shares with Washington its apprehensions about delays or disruptions of the peace process because Jordan is keen on arriving at a just peace and is careful not to allow extremist elements on both sides to be successful in their drive to inflame the region. Should the peace process become derailed, especially due to Israel's negative stand, both the Arabs and the Israelis will be the losers, it added.

Al Destour daily welcomed Mr. Christopher's visit to Jordan and said that the United States should play the role of full partner in the peace-making process. Mr. Christopher is on record as saying that Washington wants to play full role in the negotiations and that the U.S. president is totally committed to pursuing the peace process until it achieves its objectives, said the daily. This is a welcome commitment on the part of the United States and the Arab parties look forward towards a meaningful role by Washington to achieve the aspired peace, said the daily. But, the paper said, a genuine and lasting peace can be by no means hinged on a biased stand or a double standard policy on the part of the world community and the U.N. Security Council. Mr. Christopher ought to realise that the Arabs are paving the ground for real peace but that the Israelis are continually obstructing all moves in this direction.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Foreign aid to Jordan — what price?

By Dr. Fahed Al Faneek

Very little was made public about the meeting of the consultative group that was in Paris on Jan. 28, 1993, to consider financial aid to Jordan and make commitments to finance the expected gap in the country's balance of payments for 1993 and 1994. All the Jordanians were told so far is that the meeting was very successful, the participants were impressed by Jordan's economic performance and decided to give Jordan \$380 million in 1993 and a similar amount in 1994.

The consultative group included representatives of the governments of the United States, Canada, Japan, Germany and other industrial countries. The European Community (EC), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were also there. The meeting was sponsored and organised by the World Bank and the IMF.

An observer need not be a genius to realise that these additional commitments to aid Jordan were conditional. The actual payment will not take place unless and until Jordan takes certain economic measures and satisfies certain conditions set by the donors. Funds, nowadays, are not given away simply because a country like Jordan needs them. There are many nations in this world which are starving for cash, but the need is not the only criteria for giving.

On the other hand, all the industrial countries which attended the consultative group's meeting in Paris told the Jordanian

government, in no ambiguous words, that they do not have the intention or the desire to replace the Arab Gulf oil-exporting states in supplying funds to Jordan in the form of simple telegraphic transfers with no strings attached. The industrial countries and the international institutions were ready to help Jordan provided it is ready and willing to help itself, behave in a certain manner and abide by certain conditions regarding water, energy, agriculture, sectoral reform, population policy, etc.

As an economist, I have no problem with the economic policies that the donors would like to see Jordan adopting, because they are, in my opinion, in our own best interest. After all, the policies and conditions make sense. In fact, Jordan should have volunteered to implement the reforms and satisfy the conditions out of prudence and sound economic policy. However, the Jordanian people are entitled to know all the facts and should be told about these conditions. They should know that there is a price which must be paid in order for us to earn the promised aid, whether in the form of grants or soft loans.

Last year, the government raised the prices of some petroleum products on the very day the Paris Club was scheduled to meet, Feb. 28, 1992. This step cost the consumer some JD 30 million a year. The consumer should be informed that the timing was not a coincidence. Had it not been for the fuel price rise, the Paris Club would not have agreed to reschedule all our debts that were either

overdue or were due within the next 18 months, that is until June, 30, 1993.

The government also took the difficult decision, on Jan. 28, 1993 to raise the price of bread by 10 fils per kilogramme, which cost the consumer JD 5.6 million, on the very day the consultative group was to meet in Paris. Again, the consumer should have been told that the timing was not a mere coincidence. Had it not been for the reduction of the bread subsidy, the consultative group would not have agreed to give Jordan \$380 million a year for two years.

The Paris' adjustments of fuel and bread are not the only conditions demanded by our creditors and donors. The concessions on debts and the fresh funds flowing to Jordan have more conditions attached to them. Perhaps our officials should reveal all the agreed conditions to the public and try, at the same time, to convince the people that it is in the nation's best interest in the longer run to do what we should do and reap the direct and indirect benefits that come with it. It is of course meaningful to remove the distortions from our economy and receive the financial rewards that go with it.

One last point: as long as the government is convinced and has made the commitment to do something, it should be done as early as is practical. It is not wise to postpone action until the very last day.

U.S.-Israeli deal on expellees is illegal, unethical and inhumane

By Pascal B. Karmy

THE deal between the U.S. and Israel for the return of some Palestinian expellees and shortened exile terms for the rest is illegal, unethical and evinces lack of human feelings. Moreover, the deal proves once more the double-standard policy adopted by the U.S. in its dealings with Arabs and Israel.

The deal is illegal because Paragraph 1 of Article 49 of the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949 expressly provides: "Individual or mass forcible transfer as well as deportations of protected persons from occupied territory to the territory of the occupying power or to that of any other country, occupied or not, are prohibited regardless of their motive." Moreover, Paragraph 4 of Article 1 of the Geneva Protocol of 1977 on occupied territories clearly applies to the situation prevailing in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as to the protection of civilians under occupation. Even more, Article 50 of the Hague Regulations and Article 33 of the Geneva Convention prohibit collective punishment as in this case.

The deal on the Palestinian expellees was unethical as it was concluded behind the back of the Security Council members and particularly of the Palestinians and Arabs who are the people most concerned in the matter and should have been consulted in the first place. It is well-known that generally, states' policies do not abide by the principles of ethics or morality as, according to Machiavelli, "in statecraft one must consider that there can be no dilly-dallying with human beings in such conditions. It is appropriate to remember that the U.S. roused the whole world when American embassy staff in

Tehran were unjustly taken hostages in 1980 by the Iranians, although the situation of the American hostages was benign in comparison to that of the expellees.

The deal with Israel may implicitly mean that the U.S. accepts the expulsion of Palestinians, although, in principle only, it is against it. What stunning is the fact that Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, stated in the Knesset that Israel retained the right under the U.S.-brokered offer to expel hundreds of more Palestinians. If this is true, it will encourage Israel in the future to dump Palestinians in any place it wishes. Such action on Israel's part will not only be illegal, as explained above, but it will constitute an aggression on the country in which Palestinians may be dumped, as indeed the dumping of Palestinians over Lebanon is an aggression on Lebanese territory and its integrity.

Mr. Rabin's statement that he has acted against Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, as being extremist Muslim fundamentalist groups, just as Egypt and Algeria are combatting the same groups, is a specious and fallacious argument. Egypt and Algeria enjoy lawful and legitimate governments whose main functions are to establish order and the rule of law in their own states and to protect their own citizens. They are not foreign occupying powers dealing with foreign inhabitants. Israel, on the other hand, is a foreign occupying power, subjugating people who are not its citizens on territory that is not its. Consequently, Israel is under obligation to conform its conduct with the relevant international human rights law and international conventions applicable to the

occupying power, to occupied territories and to their inhabitants.

Moreover, although we may agree or disagree with Hamas and the Islamic Jihad's religious doctrine and principles, and although we may not agree with them as to their opposition to the peace process, these two groups or organisations are resisting Israeli occupation side by side with other organisations, all of whom have the full right under international law to resist the occupier.

Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory is similar to the appalling Nazi occupation of Europe during World War II. Scores of young men are being killed or injured by the brutal Israeli army. Suffice it to mention the undercover death squads, brutal handling of people during demonstrations, torture rooms in prisons or during investigation of so-called suspects and the wanton destruction of houses leaving their owners homeless.

The intifada is a means of resisting occupation. Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, (some of whose members were expelled) are fighting occupation under the banner of the intifada which embraces all resistance forces in the occupied territories. Palestinians have no alternative at present but to defend their very existence and their national identity. The right of occupied people to resist the occupier conforms with the Hague Regulations 1907 as complemented by the 3rd and 4th Conventions of 1949. Moreover, General Assembly Resolution 3070 of Nov. 30, 1973, reaffirmed the inalienable right to self-determination of all peoples under alien subjugation and "also reaffirms the legitimacy of peoples' struggle for liberation from alien subjugation by all

means including armed struggle."

And General Assembly Resolution 3236 of Nov. 22, 1974, "further recognises the right of the Palestinian people to regain its rights by all means in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations." It can even be argued that armed struggle by the Palestinians against the Israeli occupier is permissible under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations as mentioned by Professor Thomas Mallison and Sally Mallison of George Washington University.

Hardly any country in the world, including the U.S., has won its independence from foreign power without resort to violence, whether in the form of warlike operations or armed resistance or even terrorism. Israel itself was founded on terrorism against the British army and the Palestinian Arabs and on ethnic cleansing of the Arab areas of Palestine, with subsequent destruction of most of their villages and usurpation of their homes, possessions and lands.

The U.S. must have a new perspective after the end of the cold war and not side with Israel in all its acts despite its violations and transgressions of international law and human rights conventions. The U.S. must uphold the rule of law and not the law of jungle as exercised by Israel. The U.S. was being considered the "key beacon for democracy and democratic values."

The expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians is just one example of expulsion. Since Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, it has individually expelled 2,000 Palestinians. In fact, some of the Israeli leaders call for the "transfer" of all Palestinians, including those in Israel, to the Arab countries; the word transfer is a euphemism for anachronism.

The U.S. should not only in theory, but also in practice, oppose the expulsion policy of Israel and should as well condemn Israel's practices and policies in the occupied territories.

One may understand that the U.S. wishes to guarantee Israel's security and survival and that it has helped Israel to win the 1967 war and saved it from destruction during the 1973 war (one remembers the desperate cry of General Dayan to Golda Meir: "The third temple is destroyed"; when the Israeli army was smashed by the Egyptian army). But what is inadmissible, is for the U.S. to support Israel's policies and practices in the occupied territories by exercising the right of veto in the Security Council or by bringing pressure to bear on the council members not to hold a session, as it did recently, with regard to implementation of Resolution 799 and thus leaving the expellees in appalling climatic conditions.

The U.S. must have a new perspective after the end of the cold war and not side with Israel in all its acts despite its violations and transgressions of international law and human rights conventions. The U.S. must uphold the rule of law and not the law of jungle as exercised by Israel. The U.S. was being considered the "key beacon for democracy and democratic values." must have the moral urge and courage to help the oppressed Palestinian people under Israeli-Nazi-like occupation to get rid of the Israelis and determine their destiny like other peoples who obtained independence. Colonialism or imperialism in this day and age of the so-called new world order is an incongruity and an anachronism.

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Professional Tailors and
1. Home Service
2. Designing and Tailoring
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King warns against delay in talks

(Continued from page 1)

mon Peres said Friday the U.S. had promised not to pressure Israel into making more "concessions" on the issues and Mr. Christopher said Saturday it reached the American-Israeli agreement as a "furtherance of Resolution 799, which calls for the immediate return of all evictees to their homes."

One aspect of the U.S.-Israeli agreement that has not been adequately appreciated is the review process of individual expellees, said Mr. Christopher.

"That," he said, "could result in a phased return of significant numbers in the next period of time and that certainly could have a positive effect."

Palestinian officials say they would resume talks with Israel if it provided a timetable for the return of all the evictees and Mr. Christopher said it would be a "positive sign if the Palestinians were to accept the agreement."

Saying he would not predict the attitudes of the parties to the peace talks, Mr. Christopher expressed hope "they would agree to return and not allow side issues to distract us from the important work of the negotiations themselves."

King Hussein said he remains optimistic all parties to the conflict would recognise the importance of resuming the negotiations without any substantial delay.

The King said the U.S. com-

would be an example for others. The King said he hoped this would be viewed positively in the U.S. but stressed that Jordan did not opt for democracy to seek help from others.

Mr. Christopher, whose talks in Jordan also dealt "with bilateral relations and regional issues," said Jordan's democratisation process would generate a favourable reaction in the United States but said its impact in Jordan "far outruns any effect that it may have in so distant a place as the United States."

Responding to a question on whether the U.S. would increase its economic aid to Jordan as a reward for its democratic reforms, Mr. Christopher said the process would constitute an "important aspect for the reputation of Jordan but such steps are intrinsically important for their own value." He pledged no increased aid to the Kingdom.

The secretary of state, who said on Friday his country applauded the democratisation process in Jordan, said that until recently Israel was the only democracy in the region.

Mr. Christopher also did not say whether the U.S. would release some \$30 million in suspended aid to Jordan, saying the U.S. administration would be consulting with Congress on that issue in the near future.

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Islamists insist on Resolution 799

(Continued from page 1)

After the press conference, Mr. Christopher left Amman for Damascus on the third leg of his six-country swing in the region. He is also scheduled to visit Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Israel and possibly Lebanon.

In earlier statements Mr. Christopher sought to lower expectations of his first foreign mission since he took office last month. But observers believe the visit will provide new momentum to the peace process.

The success or failure of his tour will depend on whether he will be able to find an acceptable solution to the problem of Palestinian evictees.

But as the U.S. seems content with the agreement it reached with Israel on the issue — a decision that the Security Council found satisfactory — any potential breakthrough will depend on the U.S. ability to convince the Palestinians to accept the deal and Israel to accelerate the peace process of the expellees.

The Palestinians, however, are not expected to agree to a resumption of the talks unless their demand for a timetable for the return of all expellees is met.

The Palestinians have also demanded that Israel announce an end to its expulsion policy before committing themselves to return to the talks.

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No action against Reynolds planned — for now

LONDON (AP) — Despite an ultimatum, track's governing body plans no immediate action against Butch Reynolds for refusing to back down in his battle over a doping suspension, a top IAAF official said Friday.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation last month set next Tuesday as a deadline for Reynolds, the world record holder at 400 metres, to retract his "libelous statements" and drop his legal action against the world body.

But Reynolds, who recently returned to competition after a 2½-year drug suspension, has further escalated the conflict with more derogatory remarks about the IAAF and its president, Pino Nebiolo.

Yet, IAAF general secretary Istvan Gyulai said no action against Reynolds was planned for the time being, meaning he may be free to run in the World Indoor Championships in Toronto next month if he makes the U.S. team.

"We are not threatening. We are not chasing him. We are not vindictive. There is hope, hope in the victory of sober thinking. We hope that intelligence will prevail in the long run. We are very much hopeful that some good advices will be involved sooner or later, and that the case will come to an end."

"We don't want to have a war," he added.

Gyulai's statement, however, does not mean the IAAF has ruled out punishing Reynolds for a later date. He noted that any further disciplinary action against Reynolds must be decided by the full IAAF council, which next meets in May.

Reynolds could run the risk of another suspension, possibly for life, if the dispute continues. Under a clause in the IAAF rule book, an athlete who brings the sport into "disrepute" is ineligible.



Butch Reynolds

ble to compete, with the length of the ban to be decided by the council.

The IAAF also continues to explore the option of filing a libel suit against Reynolds for describing the federation's drug testing procedures as a fraud and sham.

Reynolds was suspended for two years by the IAAF after traces of the anabolic steroid nandrolone turned up in his urine after a meet in Monte Carlo in 1990. Reynolds contends he never took drugs and that the positive test was a result of faulty procedures.

Reynolds fought his case in American courts, winning the right to compete in last year's U.S. Olympic trials. He never made it to Barcelona and the IAAF extended his suspension for an extra six months, until Jan. 1, 1993, because he defied the ban.

In December, a U.S. district court judge in Columbus, Ohio, joined the IAAF to pay Reynolds \$27.3 million in damages and punitive awards. The IAAF refuses to recognise the jurisdiction of the court or its judgement.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Sharif Zeid to chair World Cup committee

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker has accepted the chairmanship of the committee which will oversee preparations for the preliminary round of the World Cup matches to be held in May at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid. Jordan will be competing in the group alongside China, Iraq, Yemen and Pakistan.

Deal reached to sell Spurs for \$75 million

SAN ANTONIO (R) — An agreement to sell the San Antonio Spurs of the National Basketball Association to a group of local investors for \$75 million, was announced Friday. "It is my pleasure to announce that a group of San Antonio businesses and individual investors have joined together to purchase the San Antonio Spurs and all their assets for a price of \$75 million," said Bob Coleman, expected to become the team's managing general partner. Coleman said he paid \$1 million with the rest of the money due when NBA approves the sale of the franchise.

Cyprus players on strike

NICOSIA (R) — Cypriot soccer players went on indefinite strike Friday in a row over transfers. They want free transfers for First and Second Division players once they reach the age of 32. The Cyprus Football Federation says this violates an agreement signed last May. The four-division weekend league programme has been called off. With the exception of a handful of foreigners there are no professional players in Cyprus.

Werder keep up pressure on Bayern

BONN (R) — European Cup Winners Cup holders Werder Bremen kept up the pressure on German leaders Bayern Munich with a 3-0 victory over Nuremberg as the First Division resumed action Friday after its two-month winter break. A 65th-minute penalty from New Zealand international Wynton Rufer and goals from Austrian Andreas Herzog and recent signing Bernd Hobsch in the 69th and 82nd minutes respectively helped the north German side go level on points with the Bavarians. Bayern lead Werder on goal difference with Eintracht Frankfurt a point behind in third.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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A TOUCH OF CARE

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH	♦ J 8 5 4 3	♦ A Q 7 6	♦ J 7 5	♦ J
WEST	♦ Void	♦ K Q 2	♦ 10 9 8 5 3	♦ J 4 2
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SOUTH	♦ A 10 9 7 6	♦ K	♦ A K 2	♦ A 10 8 6

The bidding: North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♦ Pass
4 ♦ Pass 4 NT Pass
5 ♦ Pass 6 ♦ Pass
6 ♦ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Ten of ♦

Bidding a hand to the optimum contract is only half your objective. All will be for naught if you fail to make your contract.

North-South bid excellently to a fine small slam in spades. North judged that the hand was good enough to insist on game in spades and chose to make a splinter bid en route by jumping to four clubs to show a good passed hand raise to game with a singleton club. With all

Jazz All-Stars to get memorable day Jordan, Barkley, Drexler face-off today

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Karl Malone and John Stockton have played in the NBA All-Star game four times before, but they say their fifth appearance could prove the most memorable.

Sunday's edition of the National Basketball Association's mid-season showcase will be Salt Lake City's first. The 19,911 seat Delta Centre will be packed with fans cheering on the Utah Jazz and Olympic teammates.

"Oh, yeah, the home crowd will give us an extra lift," Malone said. "It's neat to be able to play at home, in front of our fans for a change."

Malone, who enters the game as the NBA's third leading scorer at 28.2 points per game this season, also looks forward to starting the game with NBA assist leader Stockton.

The last time the two were All Star starters together 1989 in Houston — Malone scored 28 points and was named the game's most valuable player. Stockton, with 17 assists and 11 points, was runner-up.

"I think it's going to be great to have (Stockton) with me on the floor. It's a great feeling," Malone said.

"Anything I can do with Karl is a pleasure for me," Stockton added. "He's been huge for this franchise and huge for my career."

Stockton, marking his fifth straight appearance in the big show, also started the 1990 game, the one Malone missed because of injury.

This year, Malone and Stockton join Charles Barkley of Phoenix, Portland's Clyde Drexler and San Antonio center David

Robinson as Western Conference starters.

Others on Suns coach Paul Westphal's roster include Sean Elliot of the Spurs; Tim Hardaway, Golden State; Shawn Kemp, Seattle; Dan Majerle, Phoenix; Danny Manning, the Los Angeles Clippers; Hakeem Olajuwon, Houston, and Portland's Terry Porter.

They face an Eastern Conference squad starting Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen of the defending NBA champion Chicago Bulls, Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal, Isiah Thomas of Detroit and Charlotte's Larry Johnson.

New York Knicks coach Pat Riley also will call on Cleveland's Brad Daugherty, Larry Nance and Mark Price; Atlanta's Dominique Wilkins and Joe Dumars; Patrick Ewing, New York, and Detroit's Dennis Rodman.

But to the Delta Centre crowd, no stars shine brighter than Malone and Stockton.

In the seven seasons they've started for Utah, the pair have become Jazz icons — a potent combination of uncanny passing and brute force that accounts for roughly 40 points, 13 rebounds and 15 assists per game.

In the years Utah has played Stockton and Malone together, the club has made the playoffs every season and posted four consecutive campaigns of 50 or more victories. Last year, the Jazz won the Midwest Division and made the Western Conference finals before bowing to Portland.

At times, their on-court symbiosis seems other worldly, but both insist it's merely a result of



Chicago Bulls' Scottie Pippen will be one of many stars to watch in Sunday night's 1993 All-Star game.

hard work and timing honed over hundreds of games.

"I think it's just getting familiar with each other. Basically, that's it. You just go out and do what you do," Malone shrugged.

Koeman given 3-match ban

MADRID (R) — Dutch defender Ronald Koeman was given a three-match suspension by the Spanish Soccer Federation Friday for insulting the referee in last weekend's ill-tempered encounter between Barcelona and Atletico Madrid.

The ban is in addition to the one-match suspension slapped on Barcelona's Koeman and two other players sent off during the match.

The federation decided to punish Koeman further after match referee Pajares Paz told their disciplinary council that the Dutch international had called him a "son of a whore." Koeman has denied saying it.

The federation also slapped a hefty fine on Sevilla's Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo for inciting violence on the pitch during a match against Deportivo Coruna.

Bilardo was fined one million pesetas (\$8,600) after television microphones picked him up yelling at the team physio to stamp on an opposition player.

The physio had rushed on the pitch to help an injured Deportivo player after his nose was cut open by a high kick from Sevilla's Diego Maradona.

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CONSOLIDATED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 20/02/1993			
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20	21	22	23
AMERICAN FINANCIAL BANK	62,988 132,000	120,000 120,000	-2,000
AMERICAN BANK OF JORDAN	59,537 122,000	4,670 5,500	-5,500
AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK	880 3,610	3,580 3,600	-30
AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	10,637 3,400	3,400 3,400	0
AMERICAN INVESTMENT BANK	12,000 3,400	3,400 3,400	0
AMERICAN ISLAMIC BANK	199,184 5,160	5,420 5,420	-260
AMERICAN INVESTMENT INVESTMENT	21,021 4,700	4,700 4,600	-100
AMERICAN INVESTMENT INVESTMENT	28,859 3,120	2,970 2,970	-150
AMERICAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	9,120 5,500	5,500 5,500	0
AMERICAN INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	50,284 1,700	1,690 1,630	-70
AMERICAN INVESTMENT/AMERICAN	3,318 3,800	3,800 3,850	-50
AMERICAN LIFE INSURANCE	1,424 3,650	3,610 3,720	-10
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	20,528 3,710	3,720 3,550	-150
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	18,788 3,320	3,350 3,350	-30
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	18,451 3,200	3,200 3,200	0
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	47,021 1,730	1,740 2,020	-30
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	480 1,000	980 980	0
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	3,200 1,700	1,700 1,700	0
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	56,268 5,430	4,480 4,220	-250
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	18,967 1,730	1,720 1,700	-30
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	17,714 1,730	1,720 1,700	-30
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	1,380 1,180	1,180 1,150	-30
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	3,878 1,270	1,430 1,440	-10
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	1,424 3,650	3,610 3,720	-10
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	29,522 2,280	2,370 2,370	-90
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	79,483 1,610	1,900 1,970	-70
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	1,788 1,750	1,700 1,700	-80
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	213,274 18,700	18,700 18,700	0
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	20,248 3,010	3,010 2,900	-100
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	5,200 5,500	5,500 5,500	0
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	400 400	400 400	0
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	40,096 6,640	6,600 6,550	-50
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	12,345 5,600	5,600 5,600	0
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	35,340 3,500	3,500 3,500	0
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	25,384 3,320	3,300 3,220	-80
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	1,788 1,750	1,700 1,700	-80
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	318 318	318 318	0
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	138,298 11,380	11,100 10,700	-400
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	154,371 13,250	13,300 13,700	-400
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	4,200 1,050	1,050 1,050	0
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	10,758 2,100	2,100 2,050	-50
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	388 6,670	6,570 6,650	-100
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	8,500 1,090	1,050 1,000	-50
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	50,373 5,170	4,060 5,040	-100
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	1,330 3,500	3,500 3,500	0
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	41,205 12,800	12,700 12,700	0
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	129,312 5,580	5,800 1,150	-4,650
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	48,070 5,370	5,330 4,250	-1,080
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	20,000 2,000	2,000 2,000	0
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	13,486 1,960	1,930 1,930	-30
AMERICAN FRENCH INVESTMENT	171,189 5,850	5,800 5,290	-600
TOTAL	3,160,310		
NO. OF TRADES SHIPPED IN PARALLEL MARKET	24,820		
NUMBER OF TRADES IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	32,880		

Boeing to cut 20,000 jobs by mid '94

SEATTLE (AP) — Boeing Co., the world's leading airplane builder, has joined the list of big American companies making profound work-force cuts with plans to eliminate 20,000 jobs nationwide by mid-1994.

The

cuts accounts to nearly 20 per cent of Boeing's workforce.

The company said it plans to cut 23,000 jobs this year through resignations, retirements and other attrition as well as layoffs. Those cuts will include 15,000 jobs in the Puget sound area, 6,000 in Wichita, Kansas and the rest at other locations.

It plans another 5,000 cuts in the first half of 1994, including an expected 4,000 in Washington and 1,000 in Wichita.

"These reductions reflect the realities of the current market in the aerospace industry," said chairman and chief executive Frank Shrontz.

The announcement came a week after Boeing issued 60-day layoff warning notices to 1,000 employees in Wichita.

Last year Boeing's Puget sound area work force was reduced by about 5,900 jobs, including 2,066 through layoffs.

Boeing's chief domestic competitor, McDonnell Douglas Corp., announced plans earlier to cut employment by about 10 per cent, or 8,700 jobs, this year.

Airlines that have delayed or cancelled orders and options for Boeing planes in recent months include the Irish based leasing company GPA, United Airlines and Japan Air Lines.

Job reductions were widely anticipated after an announcement Jan. 26 that production was being cut by 35 per cent over the next 18 months.

As of Jan. 1, Boeing employed about 143,500 people worldwide, including 98,300 in the greater Seattle area. Boeing is one of the nation's biggest industrial companies and its biggest exporter, with a 60 per cent share of the global jet aviation market.

Rhodium prices dive

LONDON (R) — Rhodium prices plunged to the lowest levels since 1991 this week and could fall further as recession-hit Japanese car makers offload stocks and Russia seeks alternative markets for the most precious of precious metals, dealers said.

Metal dealers said some Japanese car makers were unhappy with Almaz's apparent inability to make supply commitments beyond the end of March, due to the failure of Russia's parliament to sanction sales for a longer period.

The parliament, at loggerheads with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, has tied up platinum metal exports in bureaucratic red tape, they said.

Some 80 per cent of Japan's total rhodium imports estimated at 60,000 ounces in 1992, are destined for the car industry.

The car companies' actions have raised fears that metal from Russia will be offloaded in other markets.

The car makers have been under pressure to slim down expensive rhodium stockpiles from a smash in sales.

Japan's domestic vehicle sales, excluding mini vehicles, totalled 5.33 million in 1992, down 7.2 per cent from a year ago, the second straight year-on-year decline.

Nissan and Toyota, Japan's two largest car companies, saw their vehicle sales fall by 10.8 per cent and 8.8 per cent respectively.

cent and 5.4 per cent last year from 1991's levels.

Both firms said they would not be concluding supply contracts for platinum metals with Russian exporter Almazjaveliexport for the first quarter of this year.

Metal dealers said some Japanese car makers were unhappy with Almaz's apparent inability to make supply commitments beyond the end of March, due to the failure of Russia's parliament to sanction sales for a longer period.

"I'm ruling it out for now," she said.

Mr. Clinton spent an hour fielding questions in Chillicothe as part of his drive to win grassroots support for his controversial new package of tax rates and spending cuts.

"If you have a national sales tax, you have to be really careful to be fair to people," he said. "You have to exempt food... (and) maybe clothing, or (provide) a certain amount of allowance."

You have to be careful how you do it so you don't make it a regressive tax. But they can be designed that way and we're the only major nation without one."

Mr. Clinton's own package, already drawing Republican opposition in Congress, calls for \$242 billion in new income, and energy taxes to create jobs and cut federal deficits.

The president brought up the possibility of restructuring the tax system to bring the United States in line with countries like Canada, Germany and Japan in response to a woman who asked why he did not opt for a national sales tax instead of his broad-based energy tax proposal.

The president, on the second and final day of a trip to the

Clinton says U.S. may one day need national sales tax

CHILLICOTHE, Ohio (R) — President Bill Clinton said Friday as he campaigned for his economic reform plan that America may one day have to implement a national sales tax to put its economy on a par with foreign competitors.

"I do believe that America at another time, and maybe not too long in the future, will debate whether we want to shift the nature of our tax system because we're in a global economy," he told a campaign-style town meeting at the high school in southern Ohio.

Mr. Clinton's sales-tax proposal represented his first public foray into that touchy subject and White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers was quick to tell reporters that "there's nothing imminent" on proposing such a tax.

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Serbs stop one U.N. convoy, mine holds up another in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (R) — Rebel Serbs stopped U.N. trucks trying to take emergency supplies Saturday to besieged Muslims in eastern Bosnia, aid officials said.

They said an advance group for the three trucks trying to reach the Muslim community of Zepa had been told by local Serb Commander Rajko Hurić.

"You can go no further. When the Muslims stop fighting and lay down their weapons, you can go up there and feed them."

Tony Land, Sarajevo operations chief for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said Commander Hurić had stopped the convoy at Borki, 15 kilometres from Zepa.

A spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping force said a bulldozer trying to repair the road for another convoy to reach the Muslim town of Gorazde had hit a mine.

The spokesman, Commander Barry Frewer, said no one had been seriously injured.

He did not know if the bulldozer, attempting to fill a huge hole, had been damaged. But he added: "Obviously the hole is a little bigger."

The success or failure of the two convoys could be a test for future U.N. relief operations in Bosnia after U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali overruled a decision by his refugee Commissioner Sadako Ogata to suspend relief efforts for most of the country.

Mr. Land said that despite Dr. Ghali's move the UNHCR would not rush to send new convoys into eastern Bosnia, where tens of thousands of Muslims are cut off by the Serbs, without firm signs that they would get through.

"We are still testing the temperatures of the guarantees given," he said.

Mrs. Ogata took her decision because of the Serb blockade and a boycott of U.N. aid in Sarajevo over failure to get supplies to the trapped Muslims.

The radio said Friday that 157 people — 63 of them children — had died of hunger, disease and cold in the previous 48 hours in the region around Srebrenica in the east.

Meanwhile, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) tanks up to 60,000 troops, including Russian forces, could be needed to enforce an international peace plan for Bosnia and that they could be there for years, alliance sources say.

The Vance-Owen plan is currently being discussed at the United Nations in New York. NATO has been seeking to expand its role since the end of the cold war into areas like peacekeeping and taking on a new mission in Bosnia would be a litmus test.

NATO sources said preliminary military plans covered a range of options but that a corps-sized unit of between 40,000 and 60,000 troops, backed with heavy weaponry and air support, would probably be needed to enforce a peace agreement.

But Mr. Land praised Mrs. Ogata for drawing international attention to the relief issue.

"It appears it was the high commissioner announcing she had no option but to suspend her activities which got the spotlights turned back on," he said.

The 10-day-old boycott has forced 1,000 tonnes of aid to be stacked at Sarajevo Airport and another 1,000 tonnes in city warehouses. But enough food had already got through to the supply chain to delay any major effects.

Although the Red Cross has closed several of its communal kitchens for refugees and displaced people, it says those stores have some food stored away and have not yet gone hungry.

An adviser to Mr. Izetbegovic said on Sarajevo Radio that the Bosnian government would not join peace talks in New York unless aid convoys were guaranteed safe passage to the Muslims in the east.

Kemal Muftic said in the inter-

view: "That does not mean, of course, that all that is needed is for one truck to arrive to make everything all right."

The radio said Friday that 157 people — 63 of them children — had died of hunger, disease and cold in the previous 48 hours in the region around Srebrenica in the east.

"We won't know what the rules of engagement will be until the United Nations decides and until it becomes clear there will be a peace plan to enforce," said one source.

"But it's becoming clear we will have to commit a large and well-armed force if we want any agreement respected."

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Although no alliance nation has formally committed forces to the military plans, NATO sources said they expected U.S. troops to make up around 10,000 of the total. France and Britain, with forces already in Bosnia, are also expected to contribute.

If the United Nations effectively "subcontracts" the job to NATO once a peace agreement is reached, the operation would be run by the alliance's U.S.-led military command under General John Shalikashvili.

But other nations, including Russia, could be involved.

Alliance sources said earlier this week that Russia had agreed NATO could do the job and that it wanted to participate. The agreement was reached when the U.S. special envoy on Bosnia, Reginald Bartholomew, visited Moscow last week.

already in Bosnia delivering aid. Most of them are from NATO nations.

However, the sources said it was not yet clear what "enforcement" of the peace plan drawn up by international mediators Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance would mean.

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Yeltsin rival steps back from confrontation

MOSCOW (R) — Parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov Saturday took a step back from a mounting confrontation with President Boris Yeltsin over who rules Russia.

A statement issued by his spokesman indicated that despite an increasingly heated war of words, Mr. Khasbulatov was still ready to negotiate a power-sharing agreement, which could avert a controversial constitutional referendum.

"The agreement is an important issue. And it needs thorough and thoughtful work," spokesman Konstantin Zlobin quoted Mr. Khasbulatov as saying.

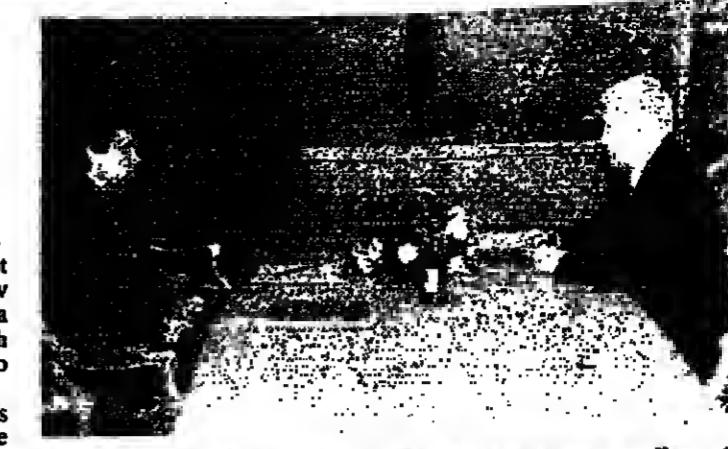
Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Khasbulatov agreed last week to try and work out a political deal on the division of powers between the executive and legislature, rather than leave the issue for a potentially destabilising plebiscite, set for April 11.

But the negotiations appeared close to collapse Friday after Mr. Khasbulatov bluntly rejected Mr. Yeltsin's proposals. These called for a freeze in the power struggle so the country could concentrate on forging ahead with economic reform.

In a searing attack, Mr. Yeltsin's official spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov accused Mr. Khasbulatov of seeking confrontation with the president at any cost and hampering negotiations. He suggested that parliament sack its chairman.

"R.I. Khasbulatov is increasingly discrediting himself as a party in negotiations, as a politician with whom one can do business in Russia," Mr. Kostikov's statement said.

Mr. Yeltsin said that a special assembly should be called to adopt a new constitution, rather than the Congress of People's Deputies, Russia's conservative



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (right) talks with Russian parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov during a meeting in the Kremlin (AP photo)

dominated top legislature. In the meantime, parliament should not interfere in government activities.

Mr. Khasbulatov has not presented his proposals for the agreement so far. But in a speech, delivered in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk Friday, he outlined his position.

Mr. Khasbulatov suggested that Mr. Yeltsin's powers be trimmed in favour of the parliament and insisted that the Congress was the supreme authority in Russia, second to none. He also spurned the president's idea of convening a Constitutional Assembly.

Mr. Yeltsin said earlier that if the agreement failed, he would go ahead with a referendum to establish the principles for a new Russian constitution. He said he would soon offer his wording for the ballot.

The planned referendum has been regarded by many politicians, even among Mr. Yeltsin's supporters, as potentially divisive and destabilising.

Many people preoccupied with everyday hardships could shun the vote and it might be boycotted by some of Russia's more independent-minded ethnic minorities.

Mobutu in France for medical treatment

French officials said Mr. Mobutu's arrival Friday night was not linked to efforts by the United States, France and Belgium to pressure him to give up power.

An official French source said the president was suffering from a dental abscess requiring an operation and he had been admitted to France for two days.

A Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Brussels had been aware for some time of the planned visit and had no comment.

Angola rebels fail to meet talks deadline

LUANDA (R) — UNITA rebels failed again to meet a deadline set by international observers demanding a date for resuming Angola peace talks, U.N. officials said Saturday.

A spokesman said Mr. Mobutu had arrived for "a short private stay for medical treatment" on the Riviera coast, where he has a sumptuous pink marble cliff-top villa at Roquebrune, between Monte Carlo and Menton.

But they said UNITA insisted it wanted to resume dialogue with the government to end their escalating civil war.

UNITA declined to suggest to U.N. special representative Margaret Anstee a date by the Friday deadline set by Portugal, Russia and the United States who are observing peace accords signed in 1991, her spokesman said.

The spokesman said officials of UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) planned to contact Ms. Anstee again Saturday to discuss logistics and security concerns they say are obstacles to peace talks.

"UNITA told her that it was ready to return to the negotiating table the soonest possible for a negotiated peace," he told reporters.

"UNITA asked for a plan to be prepared so that these matters can be dealt with," he added.

A first round of talks in late January in Addis Ababa failed to produce a ceasefire. On Wednesday UNITA refused to meet the observers' first deadline to set a

date for another session.

Diplomats said UNITA did not appear committed to seeking a solution while the observers could not force it to talk.

"We only have diplomatic means at our disposal," the observers' Portuguese spokesman, Antonio Monteiro, told reporters.

Senior officials of the three countries are due to meet in Lisbon Tuesday to discuss the peace accords, which briefly ended 16 years of civil war.

Fighting has resumed with unprecedented intensity since UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi rejected his September electoral defeat and began expelling local authorities from some 75 per cent of the country.

Diplomatic sources say one possible item on the agenda will be allowing the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) government to receive outside military help.

The Angolan Armed Forces said the situation in Huambo was "very worrying" after particularly heavy shelling Friday.

The World Food Programme said about 100,000 people had fled the city. Destruction in the entire country was threatening

De Klerk to name blacks to cabinet

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies)

— With an eye on upcoming multiracial elections, President F.W. De Klerk is about to shuffle his cabinet to include blacks for the first time, news reports said Saturday.

Mr. De Klerk, seeking to shake his government's stoogy image, also is expected to name some experts from the private sector to replace long-time ministers and deputy ministers on their way out, several local newspapers said, citing unidentified government sources.

In another election-related move, an African National Congress (ANC) spokesman said Saturday the black group was willing to end its support for international economic sanctions once the date for a multiracial election is set.

Previously, the ANC has said sanctions must remain until a multiracial government is in office. But with the election expected by late this year or early 1994, the group is trying to reassure business leaders and wealthy whites it will move to improve the country's recession-ridden economy.

The most striking government change could be the appointment of a black to the cabinet, which

has excluded blacks for decades. Blacks still have no representation in parliament and are not allowed to vote, although that will change when the country's first multiracial election is held this year or in early 1994.

Indians and people of mixed race, known as coloureds, have had separate chambers in parliament since 1984, but they have far less power than the white chamber of parliament. The leaders in the Indian and mixed-race chambers have been considered members of the cabinet only by virtue of their positions in their own race's houses. No non-white has held a portfolio in the cabinet.

Mr. De Klerk and the country's other major political leaders are gearing up for multiracial elections, which will include the country's 30 million blacks for the first time. Mr. De Klerk's ruling National Party faces a tough campaign against the ANC, the country's largest black group.

Meanwhile, African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, 74, insisted Saturday he was not seriously ill, but the ANC said he needed a rest from a hectic schedule of 16-hour days.

Mr. Mandela suddenly canceled all appointments last week, touching off speculation he might be unable to complete negotiations of South Africa's transition to democracy.

But in a brief appearance before supporters at an international solidarity conference in Johannesburg, he said: "My doctors have given me a clean bill of health."

The ANC said in a statement Mr. Mandela spent three days in hospital this week for tests and treatment for "flu-like symptoms" brought on by a chill and exhaustion.

The movement released details of his daily programme and said he would rest with friends for two weeks.

The ANC said Mr. Mandela begins every day at 5 a.m. with 90 minutes of exercise ranging from a walk to a session on his exercise bicycle.

With family Doctor Ntatho Modisha at his side, Mr. Mandela made an unscheduled five-minute speech at the conference. He appealed for international support during the runup to South Africa's first all-race elections some time this year or next.

"In order to prepare for the strenuous task that lies ahead, I will now begin my two weeks of complete rest," he said.

COLUMN 8

Bitter cold can't stop Clinton from jogging

CHILLICOTHE, Ohio (R) — It was three degrees Fahrenheit (minus 16 centigrade) outside, snow covered the ground and water was frozen in gutter spouts as fitness fanatic Bill Clinton went jogging. Dragged along with the president for a three-mile jaunt through Yoctangee Park was Chillicothe's mayor, Joseph Sulzer, who was wearing a sweatshirt appropriately emblazoned OUCH — for Ohio University at Chillicothe. "Not normally," Mr. Sulzer replied when asked if he was a frequent jogger in this kind of weather. It was toe-numbing cold. With the wind chill factor added it was minus six degrees Fahrenheit (minus 23 centigrade). Dressed warmly, the president ran, waved to townspeople, shook a few hands and ran some

dominated top legislature. In the meantime, parliament should not interfere in government activities.

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has not presented his proposals for the agreement so far. But in a speech, delivered in the Siberian city of Novosibirsk Friday, he outlined his position.

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Mr. Yeltsin said earlier that if the agreement failed, he would go ahead with a referendum to establish the principles for a new Russian constitution. He said he would soon offer his wording for the ballot.

The planned referendum has been regarded by many politicians, even among Mr. Yeltsin's supporters, as potentially divisive and destabilising.

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Mr. Yeltsin said that a special assembly should be called to adopt a new constitution, rather than the Congress of People's Deputies, Russia's conservative

French officials said Mr. Mobutu's arrival Friday night was not linked to efforts by the United States, France and Belgium to pressure him to give up power.

An official French source said the president was suffering from a dental abscess requiring an operation and he had been admitted to France for two days.

The Western powers are studying the possibility of freezing Mr. Mobutu's assets abroad, reported to include large deposits in Switzerland as well as properties in France, officials said.

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